

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAC-00
INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
HA-05 /117 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3257

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORC, PDEV, UNGA, RQ

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO,
SEPT 7

REF: USUN 3487

SUMMARY: IN SHORT MEETING, SEPT 7, COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) HEARD STATEMENTS BY YUGOSLAV AND IRANIAN REPS IN SUPPORT OF CONSENSUS RES ON PUERTO RICAN ISSUE. IRAN SAW AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENTS AS BASIS FOR ARRIVING AT CONSENSUS. CUBAN PERMPRE ROA REJECTED AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENTS TO CUBAN/IRAQI DRAFT ON BASIS THAT THEY CONSTITUTED A TOTALLY NEW RESOLUTION. ROA QUOTED STATEMENTS BY THREE PUERTO RICAN LEADERS INCLUDING EX-P.R. GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ COLON, REJECTING THE AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENTS. HE CALLED FOR COMMITTEE TO PROCEED TO VOTE. NEXT MEETING OF COMMITTEE IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPT 8 AT 3:00 PM. END SUMMARY.

1. YUGOSLAV VUKOVIC NOTED THE WIDE-SPREAD VIEW EXPRESSED DURING TESTIMONY BY PUERTO RICAN PETITIONERS OF NEED FOR CHANGE IN PRESENT STATUS. YUGOSLAV ALSO TOOK NOTE OF THE "EVOLUTION" OF US POSITION ON PUERTO RICO. HE CALLED FOR SOLUTION BASED ON PRINCIPLES EXPRESSED AT BELGRADE MEETING OF NAM FOREIGN MINISTERS. HE ARGUED THAT CONSENSUS RESOLUTION IS IN "BEST INTEREST" OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO AND EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR INDIAN AMB JAIPAL'S SEPT 1 CALL FOR CONSENSUS.

2. CUBAN PERMREP ROA ASKED FOR FLOOR ON BEHALF OF BOTH CUBA AND IRAQ TO REITERATE POSITION TAKEN SEPT 6 UNCLASSIFIED

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(REFTEL) REJECTING AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENTS TO CUBAN/IRAQI DRAFT RES. ROA SAID THEY WERE NOT REALLY AMENDMENTS, BUT CREATED A RADICALLY DIFFERENT TEXT WHICH ALTERED THE CONTENT AND GOAL OF ORIGINAL DRAFT. HE THEN WENT ON IN SOME DETAIL TO DEMONSTRATE THE DEGREE TO WHICH AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENTS ALTERED ORIGINAL DRAFT RES. HE SPECIFICALLY OBJECTED TO REMOVAL OF "RIGHT TO INDEPENDENCE" OF PR PEOPLE IN FIRST OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH AND NOTED THAT MOST OTHER OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS HAD BEEN DONE AWAY WITH AS IF "BY MAGIC". HE OBJECTED TO THE INTRODUCTION IN AUSTRALIAN DRAFT OF "UNACCEPTABLE CONCEPTS" SUCH AS "ANNEXATION" AND ALLEGED THAT THE PURPOSE OF AMENDMENTS WAS TO EXCLUDE IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF ORIGINAL DRAFT, SPECIFICALLY THE "NEED FOR A TRANSFER OF POWER" IN ORDER FOR SELF-DETERMINATION TO BE ACHIEVED. ROA OBJECTED TO REFERENCE TO GOVERNOR ROMERO AND NO OTHER PUERTO RICAN LEADERS AND ATTACKED ROMERO'S PROPOSAL FOR A "SO-CALLED" REFERENDUM, WHICH ROA SAID WOULD TAKE PLACE WITHOUT ANY UN PARTICIPATION AND WHICH THE GOVERNOR INTENDED TO CALL AFTER THE NEXT GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION, WHEN HE MIGHT NO LONGER BE IN OFFICE.

3. ROA THEN QUOTED STATEMENTS BY MARI BRAS, SECGEN OF
PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY (PRO-INDEPENDENCE);
RAFAEL HERNANDEZ COLON, FORMER GOVERNOR AND FORMER
PRES OF PRO-COMMONWEALTH POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY;
AND RUBEN BERRIOS, PRESIDENT OF THE PUERTO RICAN
INDEPENDENCE PARTY. ALL THREE STATEMENTS REJECTED
AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENTS TO CUBAN/IRAQI DRAFT RES AND CLAIM-
ED THEY CREATED A TOTALLY NEW RESOLUTION WHICH WAS
CONTRARY TO PUERTO RICAN RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION.
CUBAN PERMREP CONCLUDED THAT STATEMENTS OF THREE PUERTO
RICAN LEADERS MEANT "THE MAJORITY OF PUERTO RICAN

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PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT THE AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENTS
CONSTITUTE A NEW RESOLUTION".

4. ROA ENDED BY SAYING THAT PUERTO RICAN ISSUE HAD
BEEN DISCUSSED AT GREAT LENGTH AND SUFFICIENT TIME
HAD BEEN GIVEN TO STUDY OF BOTH CUBAN/IRAQI DRAFT RES
AND AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENTS. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT
C-24 COULD PROCEED TO A VOTE.

5. REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAN (MIR MOTAHARI) SPOKE
BRIEFLY IN SUPPORT OF STATEMENTS BY BOTH INDIA AND
AUSTRALIA FAVORING CONSENSUS RESOLUTION ON PUERTO
RICO AND EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT AUSTRALIAN AMENDMENTS
PROVIDED BASIS FOR SUCH CONSENSUS.

6. CHARIMAN SALIM ADJOURNED MEETING WITH AN EXPRESSION
OF HOPE THAT CONSIDERATION OF QUESTION AND COMMITTEE'S
WORK COULD BE CONCLUDED AT NEXT SESSION, SEPT 8 AT 3 PM.
HE URGED PARTIES TO CONSULT IN INTERIM TO ACHIEVE
A SOLUTION. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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